

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 10, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 41**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Lieu**  
*(Coauthor: Senator Pavley)*

April 20, 2010

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 41—Relative to Santa Monica Airport.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 41, as amended, Lieu. Santa Monica Airport.

This measure would memorialize the Federal Aviation Administration, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the federal Department of Transportation, and the members of the California congressional delegation to work collaboratively to review noise levels and the safety of flight operations at Santa Monica Airport, to carefully examine the air pollution impact on the communities that surround the airport, and to enlist the help of expert scientists to study the effects of emissions from the airport and apply that science into remediation efforts, among other things.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Municipal Airport was
- 2 established in 1917 and is one of the oldest and largest general
- 3 aviation airports in the South Coast Air Quality Management
- 4 District today and located in the heart of a residential community;
- 5 and
- 6 WHEREAS, Since the 1980s, a number of changes have taken
- 7 place with respect to aircraft operations at Santa Monica Airport,
- 8 including the changing of Federal Aviation Administration flight

1 rules to require jet aircraft to receive permission from air traffic  
2 controllers at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) before  
3 taking off, which has created significant departure delays at Santa  
4 Monica Airport and forced jet aircraft to idle with their engines  
5 running for longer times while awaiting permission from LAX to  
6 take off; and

7 WHEREAS, More large, high-polluting jet aircraft use Santa  
8 Monica Airport than ever before and, in recent years, the number  
9 of jet aircraft operations at Santa Monica Airport has increased  
10 exponentially, from an annual total of 1,000 in 1984 to tens of  
11 thousands today; and

12 WHEREAS, The ocean breezes can carry the jet emissions into  
13 the residential neighborhoods to the east of Santa Monica Airport,  
14 replacing the fresh ocean breezes with the strong odor of jet fuel  
15 that very often enters into homes and infringes upon the right of  
16 the people to breathe clean air; and

17 WHEREAS, Residents surrounding Santa Monica Airport  
18 experience negative effects on their health and quality of life from  
19 noise and air pollution, effects that are exacerbated by jet aircraft  
20 that idle for long periods of time; and

21 WHEREAS, Numerous studies on, or including, Santa Monica  
22 Airport have indicated the possibility of significant long-term  
23 health risk impacts of toxic and associated pollutants generated  
24 from the Santa Monica Airport, but a lack of data on general  
25 aviation emissions has inhibited more comprehensive studies on  
26 the local and short-term impacts of the airport's pollution on  
27 surrounding communities; and

28 WHEREAS, Studies also recognize a need to establish at least  
29 a minimum distance between homes and aircraft operations. A  
30 recent study by the University of California at Los Angeles  
31 recommends a minimum distance of at least 660 meters between  
32 the aircraft operations at Santa Monica Airport and the neighboring  
33 community; and

34 WHEREAS, The existing situation is unacceptable and the  
35 federal government in general, and the Federal Aviation  
36 Administration in particular, must do more to eradicate air and  
37 noise pollution relative to the Santa Monica Airport because the  
38 federal government claims that the City of Santa Monica is  
39 preempted from doing more to address these concerns pursuant to

1 the federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 7401 et seq.) and other  
2 federal laws; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
4 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature respectfully memorializes  
5 the Federal Aviation Administration, the federal Environmental  
6 Protection Agency, the federal Department of Transportation, and  
7 the members of our congressional delegation to work  
8 collaboratively to review noise levels, the safety of flight operations  
9 at Santa Monica Airport, and to carefully examine the air pollution  
10 impact on the surrounding communities; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the entities memorialized above enlist the help  
12 of expert scientists to study the effects of emissions from Santa  
13 Monica Airport and apply that science into remediation efforts;  
14 and be it further

15 **RESOLVED**, *That the entities memorialized above work*  
16 *together to establish and implement a reasonable minimum*  
17 *distance between aircraft operations at Santa Monica Airport and*  
18 *the neighboring communities; and be it further*

19 *Resolved*, That the entities memorialized above work together  
20 to develop and offer federally funded and provided relocation  
21 assistance to affected homeowners who desire it; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Legislature strongly urges the Federal  
23 Aviation Administration to honor the decision of the City of Santa  
24 Monica to increase safety precautions at Santa Monica Airport,  
25 and restrict the use of Category C and D aircraft at Santa Monica  
26 Airport and limit the fuel these jets are allowed to carry when  
27 taking off from Santa Monica Airport; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
29 of this resolution to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation  
30 Administration, to the United States Secretary of Transportation,  
31 to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and to each  
32 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the  
33 United States.